fixed for export of Cotton Textiles from India. As our current export amounts to only a very small ghare of world trade in textiles, there is considerable potential. However it is not possible to quantify the same, with any certainty.

(b) to (d) The major constraints inhibiting growth of our cotton textile exports include quota restrictions imposed by, major importing countries, stiff competition from other major exporting countries, etc. Obsolete production technology employed in our cotton textile industry i_s one of the structural infirmities hindering the exports. Government have taken several steps to enhance cotton texcile exports which include full convertibility of Rupees, allowing import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production, participation in Buyer-Seller meets, fairs, exhibitions etc.

Policy *on* Cotton Exporters

615. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any policy on cotton exports; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government are considering to announce a cotton export quota in the beginning of the crops season with a view to stabilise the prices the market; if so, , the details thereof; and

(c) what are the targets of cotton exports in the current cotton season and what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY-: (a) Ministry of Textiles has already an export policy on cottton. 5 lakh bales of cotton are relesed at the beginning of the cotton season in accordance with the decision of the Cabinet Committee, on Export Strategy. Subsequent releases are made after making an assessment of the cotton demand and supply situation, exportable surplus etc.

(b) In the beginning of the cotton season Government has released a quota of 5.00 lakh bales of cotton for export. (4.00 lakh bales of staple cotton and 1.00 lakh bales of Bengal Deshi cotton).

(c) There is no target for cotton exports. The export of cotton is allowed subject to the availability of exportable surplus of the cotton.

Production Export and Consumption of cloth in the country

616. SHRI JIBON BEHARI ROY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what was the total production of cloth during the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and during the first six months of 1993-94 powerloom, handloom and mfill section-wise in the country;

(b) what was the quantum of export of cloth out of the total production during the above periods together with the amount of cloth imported; and

(c) what "was the total per capite cloth consumption in the country dur ing the above periods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Total production of cloth during 1991-92, 1992-93 and during the first six months of 1993-94 (Sector-wise) has been as under;